

CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE HOOK-WORM TO BEGIN NEXT TUESDAY MORNING

Representatives of the State Board of Health to be in Laurens County for Six Weeks Conducting It. Dispensaries to be Established Over the County.

DISPENSARIES

Every Tuesday, Dr. Bryson's office, Gray Court.
Every Wednesday, Mayor's office, Clinton.
Every Thursday, Magistrate's office, Cross Hill.
Every Friday, Dr. Donnan's office, Boyds Mill.
Every Saturday, Court House, Laurens.

As announced in The Advertiser last week, representatives of the state board of health are to conduct a hookworm campaign in this county for six weeks beginning next Tuesday. Dispensaries are to be provided at six different places in the county, (See box above) where patients are to be examined and treated. These examinations are to be given free of charge and every person in the county is entitled to the treatment.

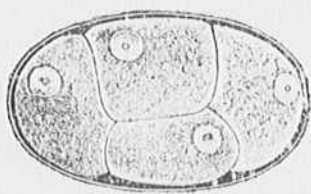
A member of the state board of health has written the following description and method of treatment of the disease:

What it is and how caused.

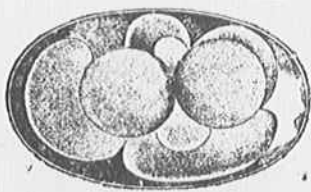
This disease is caused by a small worm which lives in the small intestine or bowel.

(The worm when full grown is about a half inch in length, and as big around as a pin.) It is of a dirty, white color. Cut No. 2 shows the worm greatly magnified; as it appears under the microscope.

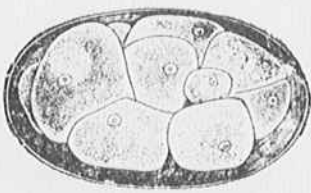
These worms lay eggs. These eggs are too small to be seen by the naked eye. Under the microscope they look like this (see cut 1). Each female worm may lay over a thousand eggs in a day. They do not hatch in the bowels. These eggs pass out with the bowel movement and get on the ground. Here, in a week or two, one worm hatches out of each egg. In hot weather the worm may hatch out in one day. These young hookworms are called embryos. These little worms live in the dirt and grow for



Cut No. 1



Cut No. 2



stomach to the first portion of the small bowel. Sometimes they are found in all parts of the bowel. It takes the worms two months or more to travel from the skin to the bowel. They cause no disease while taking the journey. As soon as they reach the bowel, they attach themselves by means of two pairs of lips to the lining of the bowel or mucous membrane and soon become full grown—that is, about a half inch long. Each worm has a small tooth, which is hollow like the needle of a hypodermic syringe. The worm takes holds of the bowel



Cut No. 3

two or three days, then they shed their skin and grow for a few days more. They get ready to cast their skin again and in this stage they are called encysted embryos. Under the microscope they appear to be in a capsule. They are too small to be seen by the naked eye. In places where no privies are used or where no buckets are used, to catch the excreta or bowel movements, the ground is alive with these little worms. They cannot be seen but they are there nevertheless. They can be felt. Let any barefooted person walk on soil which is polluted; that is, contains body discharges, and in a few minutes there is a stinging sensation on the feet. Later this gets worse and in a few hours time the skin between the toes and on top of the foot is red and swollen. The itching is intense and the desire to scratch is irresistible. In other words, the little worms have burrowed through the skin and caused what we call ground itch, toe itch, or dew poison. Ground itch occurs more often in rainy weather or after heavy dews. This is because the rain washes the excreta and the young worms a considerable distance from the privy or other place where the body waste is deposited. If these discharges do not get on the ground, there will be no ground itch and no hookworm disease. For this reason we never have hookworm disease in cities where sewer systems are used, or in country districts where sanitary

linings and this tooth pierces the bowel lining. This little worm not only damages the bowel lining, but it also sucks blood and injects a poison (toxine) into the circulation. When it has exhausted the blood supply from one little spot, it turns loose



Cut No. 4

and takes hold in another place.

Although these worms are very small, there are hundreds, sometimes thousands of them in the bowel at a time, and this causes the patient to become very weak from the constant loss of blood and from the impaired digestion.

These worms, shortly after reaching the bowel begin laying eggs (see cut 1) just as their parents did. These eggs do not hatch inside the body, but are expelled with the bowel movement and hatch out on the soil.

The worm will live in the bowel for eight or ten years unless the patient is treated. Every worm in the bowel has gone through the skin. Every time we have ground itch a little colony of hookworms has started for the bowel. Boys and girls all over the state and often men and women also, go barefooted several months in the year and are seldom without ground itch.

Is the Disease Common?

Dubini, an Italian physician was the first to discover the hookworm in man. This was in 1851. In the mines in certain parts of Germany the disease played such havoc among the miners that no man with hookworm disease was allowed to work until the disease had been cured.

In America, the first hookworm was discovered by Dr. Stiles, of the United States Marine Hospital Service. This was in 1902. When Dr. Stiles made the announcement that many of the people throughout the South living in the small towns and in the country districts were suffering with hookworm disease, the papers treated the matter as a joke and even the physicians doubted that the disease was common. Now anyone who doubts that hookworm disease is the most serious problem confronting the people of the South, either has not investigated the matter, or is not open to conviction.

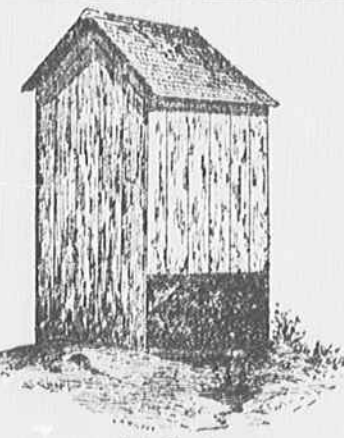
Where the Disease is found in the United States.

The disease is found in all of the southern states. It is not found in the northern part of the United States because of the cold climate. As a rule, the disease is more common on sandy soil. In our State the heaviest infection is in the lower counties, and it grows lighter as we go toward the north western part of the state.

As yet, we have not been able to estimate the number of cases of hookworm disease in the state but we do know that the disease is much more common than people think. Last summer over eleven thousand men, women and children were treated in our state in three months.

The Age Limit.

There is no age limit. The disease is commoner between the ages of five



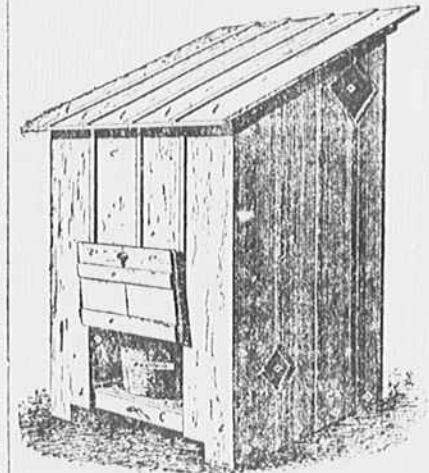
Cut No. 5

and twenty-five but it occurs in very young children and in very old persons. As soon as children get old enough to wear shoes all the year and thus prevent ground itch, they will gradually recover from the disease unless they are severely infected. It will be noticed that babies in the country are usually healthy. When they become large enough to run about and catch ground itch, they become pale and "puny" looking. They are pale or sallow and have indigestion and other disturbances.

How the Disease Affects a Person.

The symptoms of the disease vary greatly. The disease may be so severe that we can make a diagnosis by glancing at the patient, or it may be so mild that the person appears

healthy in every way. In these cases we must use the microscope to make a diagnosis. A small portion of the bowel movement is placed under the microscope. If the person has hookworm disease the eggs of the worm can be seen. The eggs of the round, the tape worm, and other intestinal parasites can also be found. In a severe case of hookworm disease the child is usually small for his age. The face is often wrinkled, and appears too old for the body. There is a troubled or drawn expression about the mouth. The skin is usually yellow. It may have a deathly pallor or a waxy look. The patient complains of "shortness of breath", of pain in the stomach, or a heavy feeling as though he were carrying a weight in the stomach. He suffers from indigestion and "heart burn" headache is common. The appetite is variable; at times the patient eats a great deal and again cares for nothing. Often times he will have a fancy for clay, sand, chalk, soot and



Cut No. 6

saw dust. We used to think that dirt eating caused hookworm disease. We had the cart before the horse. The disease causes the craving for these things and the patient is unable to resist. Cure the disease and the patient has no desire for these things.

Recently a physician engaged in the hookworm work was told by a well educated and highly cultured lady who had hookworm disease, that when the craving to eat sand came on, she would try to get it if she knew that she would be shot for doing so.

The skin of the person with hookworm disease is usually dry and harsh. The hair of the head is dry and that on other parts of the body very scant. The patient may be very thin or may be bloated or dropsical.

When patients have lost flesh and become very weak they often imagine that they have consumption. If they become bloated they believe themselves victims of "kidney trouble". It is a common thing for hookworm patients to suffer for years with what they call "consumption", "kidney trouble", "heart disease", "dropsy", "Dyspepsia", or "malaria". These imaginary troubles vanish like magic when the patient has been treated for a few weeks, and will not return if the conditions surrounding the home are as they should be. The symptoms outlined above are those found in severe cases of the disease. (See Cut 3). In a mild case of the disease the child may be full grown for his age, and his color may be good. The only evidence of disease is indigestion or an occasional headache. It is in these cases that we must use a microscope to make a diagnosis. Some persons imagine that hookworm disease is found only among the poorer people. This is not true. The disease recognizes no social barriers. It is found among rich and poor and high and low. If people go barefooted or wear leaky shoes where there are no sanitary closets, they will continue to have hookworm disease.

Is There a Cure?

The disease can be easily cured except in the extreme cases. There is no danger in taking the medicine to expel the worms provided the directions of a physician are followed. If the disease is mild, it may be cured with two doses of medicine given a week apart. Severe cases require four or five doses. Improvement usually takes place as soon as the treatment is completed and sometimes be-

fore. There is no other disease which is cured so quickly. In children, the improvement is extremely rapid. In a few weeks the child is transformed from a sallow, weak individual, to a rosy cheeked child full of energy. In older persons the changes are not so marked. If a grown person has had the disease since childhood, and is severely infected, he can be greatly improved but the ear marks of the disease are always there.

In one of our coast counties, a boy seventeen years of age, was so severely infected that he was unable to walk over a half mile without resting. A week after treatment he walked four miles. He is now enjoying good health. Often I have seen young men so ill with the disease that they could do nothing which required any more exertion than chewing tobacco or fishing. A few doses of medicine would enable these men to follow a plow all day or to do other hard work. Think of the many persons in our state who are now leading a life of misery on account of this disease! (See Cut 1). Sometimes, the disease kills; more often it weakens the system so that the person dies of typhoid fever, pneumonia or some other disease. If these people could be cured and could earn wages and pay taxes think how much the revenue of your county and of the state at large would be increased! These people are now consumers. Let us cure them so that they may become producers. We need



Cut No. 7

no drones in our hive. There is work for every man, woman and child to do.

We are spending thousands of dollars each year to educate our children, and we should spend much more, but many of these children cannot learn. This is not laziness; it is because they are sick with hookworm disease or something else. It is time for us to stop the economic leak. It has been going on too long. Of the 10,000 school children examined in this state last year in rural schools, less than 20 per cent were absolutely healthy. Many had hookworm disease, throat disease, eye disease and other diseases of a more or less serious nature requiring medical attention. About 75 per cent of them had carious teeth. We are trying to force these

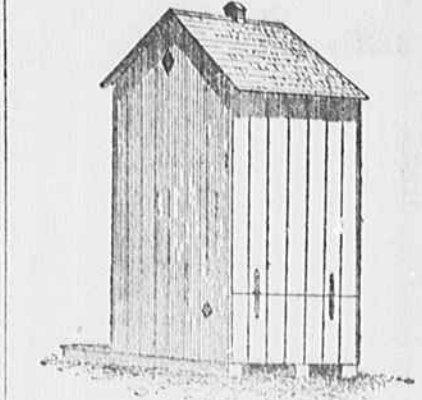
children to learn when they are unable to do proper work because of their physical condition. In hookworm disease the child is usually dull and advances slowly in school. Is it cheaper to have these children cured or let them go untreated and perhaps die before they are grown?

Hookworm disease is not a new disease. It has been in this country for several generations but has only recently been recognized.

How We Can Get Rid of the Disease.

First. Every person with the disease should be treated.

Second. There should be no soil



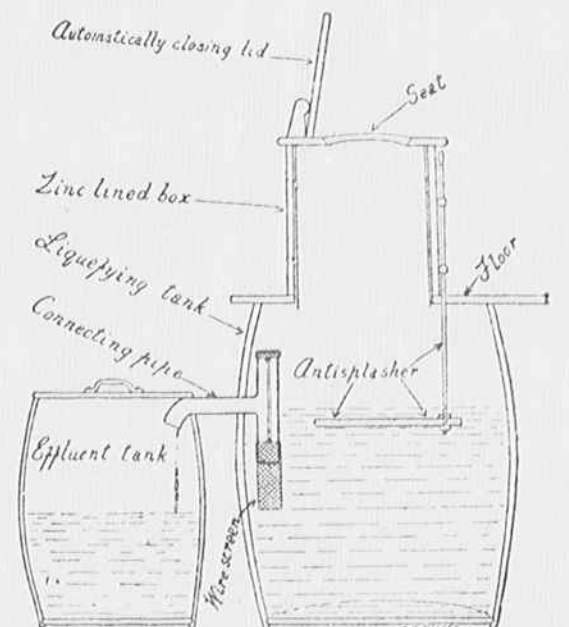
Cut No. 8

pollution. If you have an unsanitary privy (cut 5) you should make it sanitary—that is, make it fly proof by putting flaps on the seat and on the rear. (See cuts 6, 7, 8, 9). Buckets or other receptacles should be used and kept clean. If you have no privy, build one like that shown in cut 7 and use the barrels shown in cut 9. The entire cost of material including barrels and connecting pipe should not be more than \$10.00 or \$12.00. There are several types of privies which can be used. Write to The State Board of Health for information.

If a sanitary privy costs \$100.00 it would be cheap. It will prevent not only hookworm disease but it will lessen the number of cases of typhoid fever, and diarrhea or "summer complaint". What do these diseases cost you every year? A sanitary privy is cheaper than a coffin. If you have hookworm disease you should be treated. If your neighbor has a see that he is treated. You are your brother's keeper. Every person who has hookworm disease is a danger to others every time he pollutes the soil.

If you are pale and "puny" you may have hookworm. If you don't know what ails you it may be hookworm. If you wish to know, write to the State Board of Health, Columbia, S. C. for a mailing card, or see physician in Laurens county. This examination will cost you nothing. If you have the disease, it is easy to cure. If you haven't it, no harm is done. Remember that it is no disgrace to have hookworm. It is a disgrace to keep them. Will you write for a mailing card?

Laurens county has appropriated money to furnish medicine for treating the disease. The State Board of Health will send a representative to the county. He will make microscopic examinations and administer treatment to anyone applying. Why not find out now, if you have the disease. Pamphlets on hookworm disease are furnished free of charge by State Board of Health, Columbia, S. C.



Cut No. 9

\$100 Per Plate

was paid at a banquet to Henry Clay, in New Orleans in 1842. Mighty costly for those with stomach trouble or indigestion. Today people everywhere use Dr. King's New Life Pills for these troubles as well as liver, kidney and bowel disorders. Easy, safe, sure. Only 25c at Laurens Drug Co. and Palmetto Drug Co.

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